

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Prior Application: K. SOEJIMA et al  
Serial No. 10/041,578  
Filed: January 10, 2002

Group Art Unit: 2187  
Examiner: N. Moazzami  
For: VOLUME MANAGEMENT METHOD AND  
APPARATUS

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (IDS)  
UNDER § 1.97 AND § 1.98

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

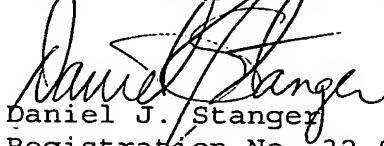
April 21, 2004

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure, the Applicants inform the Examiner of the documents cited during prosecution of the parent application, USSN 10/041,578.

The Applicants request the Examiner to initial and return a copy of the attached PTO-1449 form as an indication that the references have been considered.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Date: April 21, 2004

FORM PTO-1449 (REV. 7-80)		U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE		ATTY. DOCKET NO. NIT-316-02	SERIAL NO.
<b>LIST OF DOCUMENTS CITED BY APPLICANT</b> <i>(Use several sheets if necessary)</i>		APPLICANT K. SOEJIMA et al			
		FILING DATE 04/21/04	GROUP 2187		

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

* EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE (If Appropriate)
	AA	6,405,284	06/2002	Bridge			
	AB	6,256,705	07/2001	Li et al			
	AC						
	AD						
	AE						
	AF						
	AG						
	AH						
	AI						
	AJ						
	AK						

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

		DOCUMENT	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION
							YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
	AL						<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
	AM						<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
	AN						<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
	AO						<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
	AP						<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>

**OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)**

AR		"Data Storage Report 2002", Nikkei Computopia, 2000, pp. 16-20.					
AS		Building Storage Networks, Osborne/McGraw Hill, pp. 176-177, 210-225.					
AT							

EXAMINER		DATE CONSIDERED
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\* EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.